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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, November 5, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 31 totaled an estimated 19.4 billion ton-miles, 2.5 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 44 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 790.5 billion ton-miles, 1.7 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended October 31 totaled 443,752 cars, 3.0 percent below 1980, but 1.0 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 4.3 percent in the East, 1.0 percent in the South, and 3.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 15 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings were up 19,583 cars, or 16.7 percent.

Eleven of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended October 24 totaled 35,578 cars, up 5.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 65,645 trailers and/or containers, up 8.3 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 43 weeks of the year was 1,410,429 cars, 2.1 percent higher than last year, and 2,561,293 trailers and/or containers, 2.0 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/31/81:

	Loadings in Week ended October 31, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,853	D	4,374	13.2	I	3,656	14.5
Other farm products	6,724	I	1,225	22.3	I	329	5.1
Metallic ores	27,180	I	535	2.0	D	4,019	12.9
Coal	136,955	I	19,583	16.7	I	2,129	1.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,273	D	3,415	23.3	D	1,368	10.8
Nonmetallic minerals	12,029	D	4,117	25.5	I	839	7.5
Grain mill products	14,166	D	3,672	20.6	D	200	1.4
Food and kindred products	15,429	D	3,232	17.3	D	13	0.1
Primary forest products	17,014	D	1,803	9.6	D	951	5.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,822	D	2,926	30.0	I	553	8.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,375	D	1,196	5.8	I	1,132	6.2
Chemicals and allied products	24,477	D	3,274	11.8	D	565	2.3
Petroleum products	5,185	D	262	4.8	D	93	1.8
Stone, clay and glass products	12,618	D	2,862	18.5	D	82	0.6
Coke	5,792	I	515	9.8	D	587	9.2
Metals and products	14,343	D	1,399	8.9	D	259	1.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,657	D	3,608	17.8	I	630	3.9
Waste and scrap materials	11,115	D	1,358	10.9	I	305	2.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,223	D	1,462	12.5	D	20	0.2
All other carloads	47,217	I	3,515	8.0	I	3,027	6.9
LCL traffic	305	I	54	21.5	I	50	19.6
Total Cars Loaded	443,752	D	13,533	3.0	I	4,493	1.0
Corresponding week of 1980	457,285						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (44 weeks)	18,561,257	19,220,211	D	3.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
43 Weeks cumulative	771.1	758.1	I	1.7
Week ended October 31	19.4	18.9	I	2.5
44 Weeks cumulative	790.5	777.0	I	1.7

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